selected for providing telephone facilities; and

(c) the time taken to increase D.V. or for providing additional D.V. in the villages in Haryana having telephone exchanges and also having a waiting list because of non-availability of D.V.?

THE MINISTER COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The district-wise No. of villages is given in the Statement (*See* below)

(b) The villages are selected for the provision of telephone facility on the basis of technical feasibility.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

District-wise number of villages without telephone facilities
As on 28.2.1997

S. No.	Name of District	No. of Villages
1.	Ambala	20
2.	Yamunanagar	45
3.	Gurgaon	378
4.	Faridabad	125
5.	Karnal	101
6.	Kaithal	139
7.	Kurukshetra	91
8.	Panipat	40
9.	Rohtak	23
10.	Bhewani	27
11.	Rewari	77
12.	Mohindergarh	115
13.	Jind	31
14.	Hissar	—
15.	Sirsa	—
16.	Sonepat	—
	TOTAL:	1212

Exhibition 'DAKIYANA' '97 in Delhi

1794. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has recently organised a philatelic exhibition 'Dakiyana' '97 in Delhi to commemorate the 50th year of Independence;

(b) the special features of the exhibition;

(c) the number of philatelists from India and abroad who took part in the exhibition; and

(d) the details of other programmes organised?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) 5th State Level Philatelic Exhibition "Dakiyana" was organised recently in Delhi from 14 to 17th February, 97. Such exhibitions are held once in 3 years. It is a coincidence that "Dakiyana, 97" Exhibition has fallen in the 50th year of independence.

(b) The special features of the exhibition were display of philatelic exhibits of national/international fame from eminent philatelists. The focus of the exhibition was "Youth Development". Special covers with special concellation were released on important themes like: Postal Technology, Youth Day, Environment Day and Destination Delhi.

(c) 47 Philatelists from Delhi participated/displayed their exhibits in the Exhibition as it was a state level exhibition only. Exhibits from National Postal Museum and Army Postal Services were also displayed.

(d) Keeping in view the focus of the exhibition i.e. "Youth

Development", the following programmes were organised for the Youth/School children:—

(i) On the Spot painting competition for different age groups,
(ii) Quiz Programme,
(iii) Work shops,
(iv) Film show,
(v) Slide show etc.

उत्तर प्रदेश के गढ़वाल और कुमाऊं मण्डल में डाकघर

1795. **श्री मनोहर कान्त ध्यानी:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय क्षेत्र गढ़वाल और कुमाऊं मण्डल में डाक व्यवस्था को सुदृढ़ बनाने के लिए नए डाक-घर/शाखा डाकघर खोलने की किसी योजना पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) और (ख) पहाड़ी, रेगिस्तानी और दुर्गम क्षेत्रों को सामान्य क्षेत्रों की तुलना में जनसंख्या तथा आय संबंधी मानदण्डों में छूट प्रदान करके विशेष रियायत दी जाती है। डाकघर खोलने के लक्ष्य डाक सर्किलवार आबंटित किए जाते हैं तथा डाकघर मानदण्ड पर आधारित औचित्य होने पर खोले जाते हैं।

वर्ष 1996-97 के दौरान, उत्तर प्रदेश के गढ़वाल डिवीजन में निम्नलिखित अतिरिक्त विभागीय शाखा डाकघर खोले गए हैं:—

1. लाहली (देहरादून);
2. बालासौर (पौडी); और
3. मरगांव (उत्तर काशी)

(ग) उपर्युक्त (क) और (ख) को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

STD Capacity in Hyderabad

1796. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is only 10% STD capacity utilisation in Hyderabad Telecom from 11 P.M. to 5 A.M. on any given day;

(b) if not, the capacity utilisation of STD capacity in Hyderabad during 11 P.M. to 5 A.M. on any given day;

(c) whether Hyderabad Telecom proposes to increase STD capacity utilisation in that time frame; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The capacity utilisation of STD capacity from 11 P.M. to 12 P.M. is about 35%. During 00 hrs to 05 hrs the capacity utilisation is less than 10%.

(c) and (d) The tariff rates for STD calls are already reduced to 1/4th of the full rate during 11 P.M. to 6 AM, so that more persons are encouraged to rise the telephone during this period.

Opening up of STD Services

1797. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the plan panel is advocating opening up of STD services immediately;

(b) if so, whether the panel is aware that worldwide the expansion of the telecom network and increase in telephone density depends crucially on the systems capacity to cross-subsidise the local calls with the tariff generated from long distance calls; and

(c) if so, whether the opening up of the STD services is likely to facilitate strengthening of this cross subsidy and if so, its effect on the expansion of the network with a very low current teledensity?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir. Planning Commission is not advocating